

Application No. 10/763,917
Amendment dated October 10, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 8, 2006

The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein the cartridge comprises an outer member and an inner member conjoined on assembly with the outer member, characterised by the inner member comprising a discharge spout defining the outlet of the cartridge wherein the outer member comprises an inwardly directed extension which is received in a proximal end of the discharge spout on conjoining of the outer member and the inner member.

Claim 12 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the inner member comprises a frame having a filter disposed thereupon.

Claim 13 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein one or more passages are defined between the frame and a closed first end of the outer member when the inner member and outer member are conjoined.

Claim 14 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the one or more passages are delimited by webs extending upwardly from the frame to the closed first end of the outer member.

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Claim 15 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 wherein the one or more passages slope downwardly towards the discharge spout.

Claim 16 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the inner member further comprises a skirt surrounding the discharge spout.

Claim 17 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein the skirt comprises an upper extension which, on assembly of the cartridge, contacts the closed first end of the cartridge.

Claim 18 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 wherein an upper rim of the upper extension engages a co-operating formation of the outer member to form a snap-fit arrangement for conjoining the inner member to the outer member.

Claim 19 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 18 wherein the co-operating formation of the outer member is an inwardly directed extension.

Claim 20 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the cartridge is disc-shaped.

Claim 21 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 20 further comprising means for producing a jet of the beverage, which means comprises an aperture in a beverage flow path between the inlet and the outlet.

Claim 22 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 21 wherein the inlet and/or outlet is covered by a substantially air- and water-impermeable material prior to the formation, in use, of the inlet and/or outlet in the cartridge.

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Claim 23 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 22 wherein the inlet and/or outlet is covered by a substantially air- and water-impermeable laminate.

Claim 24 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 23 wherein the laminate is polypropylene.

Claim 25 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 24 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from polypropylene.

Claim 26 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 25 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from a biodegradable polymer.

Claim 27 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 26 wherein the outer member and/or inner member is formed by injection moulding.

Claim 28 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 27 wherein the inner member forms a load-bearing member.

Claim 29 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 28 wherein the discharge spout comprises a constriction.

Claim 30 (Original): A plurality of cartridges as claimed in claim 29 wherein the percentage yield of the beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients contained in the cartridges is consistent to within 1.0 standard deviations.

Claim 31 (Cancelled).